V. *A Letter from* Peter Templeman, *M.D. to* Wm. Battie, *M. D. Fellow of the Royal* College *of* Physicians, London, *and F.R.S. concerning a* Polypus *at the* Heart, *and a* Scirrhous Tumour *of the* Uterus.

SIR,

Read Nov. 27. 1746. THE following Case appearing to me to be a remarkable Instance of a *Polypus* at the Heart, and of a scirrhous *Uterus*, I immediately determined to communicate it to you.

ANN HICKS was brought to the Workhouse of St. *Andrew's Holborn* on *Saturday* the 15th of *November*, 1746. Her Complaints were, a Difficulty of Breathing, from a Cold she had caught about a Fortnight before, with a violent Pain and Palpitation of her Heart. The Pulse was scarce perceptible. The Surgeon, Mr. *Tait*, being present, I order'd him to open a Vein; but to keep his Finger on the Pulse; and if it did not rise on her losing a little Blood, immediately to desist.

Upon her losing an Ounce or two of Blood, the Pulse grew more languid, and he accordingly desisted. I then order'd a large Blister to be applied to her Neck, and gave her oily Medicines with the volatile Salts. I did not visit at the Workhouse again till the *Wednesday* following, when I found her much

The Royal Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *Philosophical Transactions (1683-1775).* www.jstor.org

much eaſier in her Breath, but the Pain and Palpitation of the Heart continuing.

As the oily Medicines had occaſioned a violent Purging, I order'd her the *Elixir aſthmaticum* in Cinnamon-Water. Her Pulſe was ſtill ſo little diſcernible, that though I think it intermitted, yet I cannot be poſitive.

Upon my telling you on *Thurſday* my Apprehenſions of a *Polypus* at her Heart, from the Pain and Palpitation of it, you deſired, that, when ſhe died, her Body might be open'd. To you therefore are we indebted for whatever curious was diſcover'd. She died on *Friday*, and her Body was open'd on *Saturday*.

Upon expoſing the Body naked on the Table, we were ſurpriſed with the Sight of a very large and hard Swelling in the hypogaſtric Region; concluding it at the firſt View to be a Child; and the more ſo, becauſe the Woman had never made any Complaint of an Uneaſineſs in thoſe Parts. Having open'd the Body, we found this Swelling to be of the *Uterus*, which was greatly enlarged, and extremely hard. Beſides the whole Body of the *Uterus* being thus enlarged and hardened, there were two large Protuberances diſtinct from each other, that grew prominent out of the upper Surface of the *Uterus*, and were each of them of the Size of a large Egg. There was likewiſe a third Protuberance on the oppoſite Side, but much ſmaller than the other two; and another that ſeem'd to be but juſt budding. We cut down directly through one of the large Protuberances into the very Body of the *Uterus*, and found nothing but a ſolid

Maſs

Maſs of a cartilaginous Subſtance. The Texture indeed of the Protuberance was ſomewhat laxer than of the Body of the *Uterus*. Having cut down very deep into the *Uterus*, and found nothing but this ſolid Maſs, we introduced a Probe from the *Os Tincæ*, to examine if there was any Cavity in the *Uterus*; and found a ſmall one reaching to the *Fundus*, and barely large enough to admit the Probe. The *Ovaries* and *Fallopian* Tubes were in their natural State; except a ſmall Deviation of the *Fallopian* Tube on the right Side.

I know no Writer that has taken notice of a ſimilar Appearance in the *Uterus*, but *Ruyſch*; and his Words I beg leave to cite. They are in his *Theſaurus Anatomicus Decimus*, N°. CVI. "*Uterus humanus ſcirrhoſus factus, et in majorem molem extenſus, id quod in vetulis aliquoties obſervavi; præterea ex ſuperficie ſuperiore alter et exiguus ſcirrhus emergit, ut et ovaria, ovorum ductus (tubæ Fallopianæ dicti) ſatis bene diſpoſita; et hæc omnia in liquore.*" He has not given any Plate or Deſcription of the Dimenſions of his enlarged *Uterus*; but this, which I have been deſcribing, is, in its greateſt Breadth 4 Inches and $\frac{3}{4}$; its Length from the *Os Tincæ* 6 Inches; Thickneſs, 3 Inches and an half; and its Weight, including the *Ovaries*, *Fallopian* Tubes, *&c.* two Pounds twelve Ounces of *Avoirdupoiſe* Weight.

Whatever *Ruyſch* had obſerved of that kind were in old Women. This Woman I take to have been between 30 and 40. He does not mention having ſeen more than one ſmall additional *Scirrhus*; whereas in

ours there were three or four. And, laſtly, he does not mention any thing of the hard cartilaginous Subſtance of the *Uterus*.

There were ſeveral remarkable Adheſions in the *Abdomen* and *Thorax*; as of the *Omentum* to the *Peritonæum*, of the Lungs to the *Pleura* and Diaphragm, of the *Pericardium* to the *Pleura*. The Liver and Spleen appear'd in their natural State: The Kidneys were enlarged beyond their uſual Size: The coronary Veins of the Heart were much diſtended with Blood, and the Lungs inflamed to a Degree of Mortification. Upon examining the Cavities of the Heart, we found in the right Ventricle a polypoſe Concretion of a fleſhy fibrous Subſtance that adhered to the Ventricle, and, in ſeparating it from thence, was rent into two Pieces.

London, Nov. 26. 1746.

Your moſt obliged humble Servant,

Peter Templeman.

P. S. I have annexed two Figures, repreſenting this præternatural *Uterus*, drawn by the ingenious Dr. *Parſons*. See TAB. I. and TAB. II.

Fig.

TAB. I.

Repreſents the back Part of the *Uterus* with its ſcirrhous Tumours.

A is the *Uterus*.

B, The great *Scirrhus*.

C, One of the great Protuberances.

D, The *Cervix Uteri*.

E, Part of the *Vagina*.

FF, The *Ovaries*.

GG, The Extremities of the *Fallopian* Tubes.

H, One of the Muſcles called *Ligamenta rotunda*.

II, Spermatic Veſſels.

K, The Edge of the *Alæ Veſpertilionis* on the left Side.

LL, Two ſmall Protuberances.

TAB. II. *Fig.* 1.

Repreſents the fore Part of the ſame *Uterus* laid open, by cutting through the Middle of the *Scirrhus*.

A, The Cavity of the *Uterus*.

BB, The divided Surfaces of the great *Scirrhus*.

C, The fore Part of one of the great Protuberances.

D, The *Cervix Uteri* laid open.

E, The *Vagina* laid open.

F, The divided Surface of the Protuberance that was cut through.

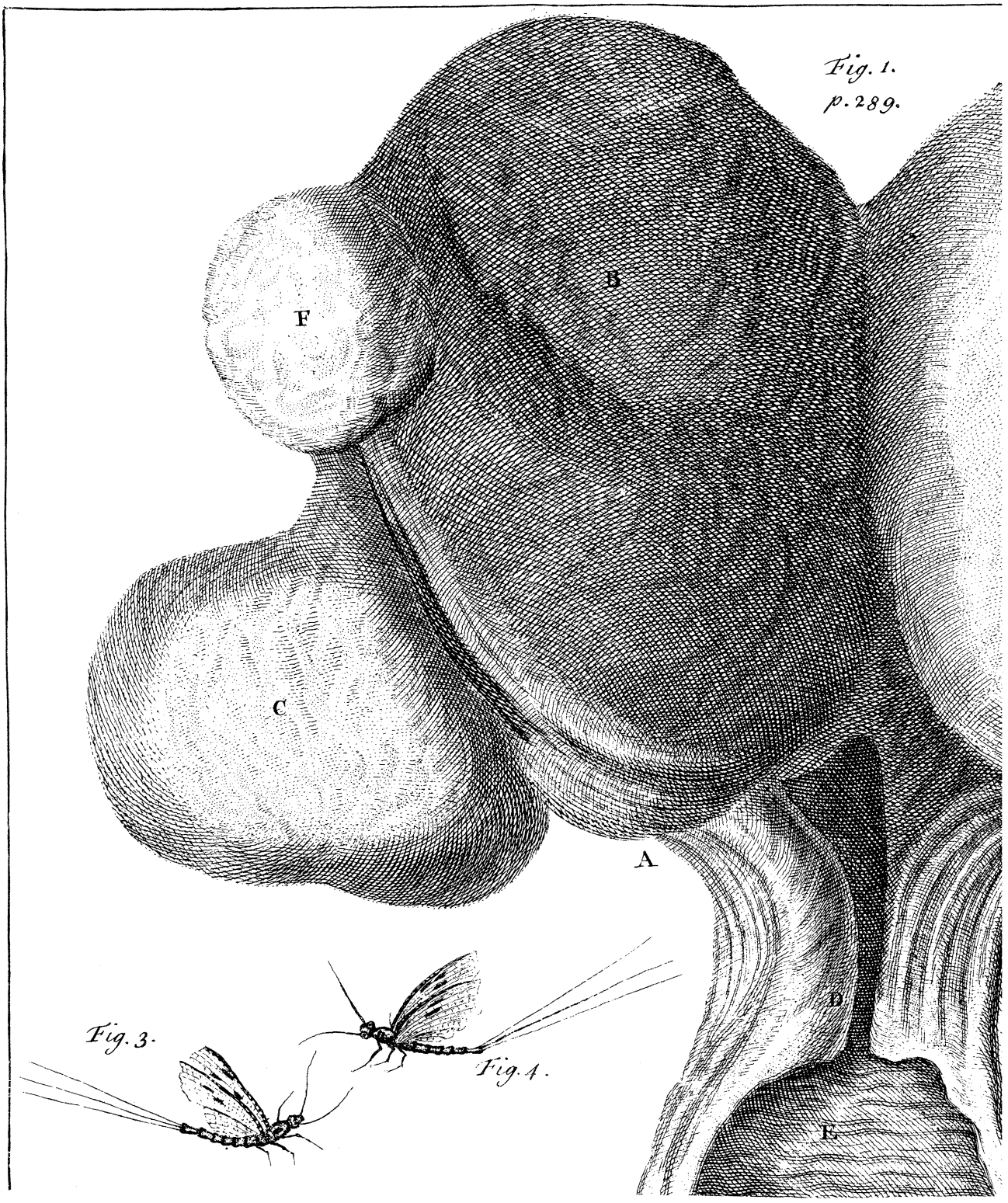


Fig. 1.
p. 289.
F
B
C
A
D
E
Fig. 3.
Fig. 4.

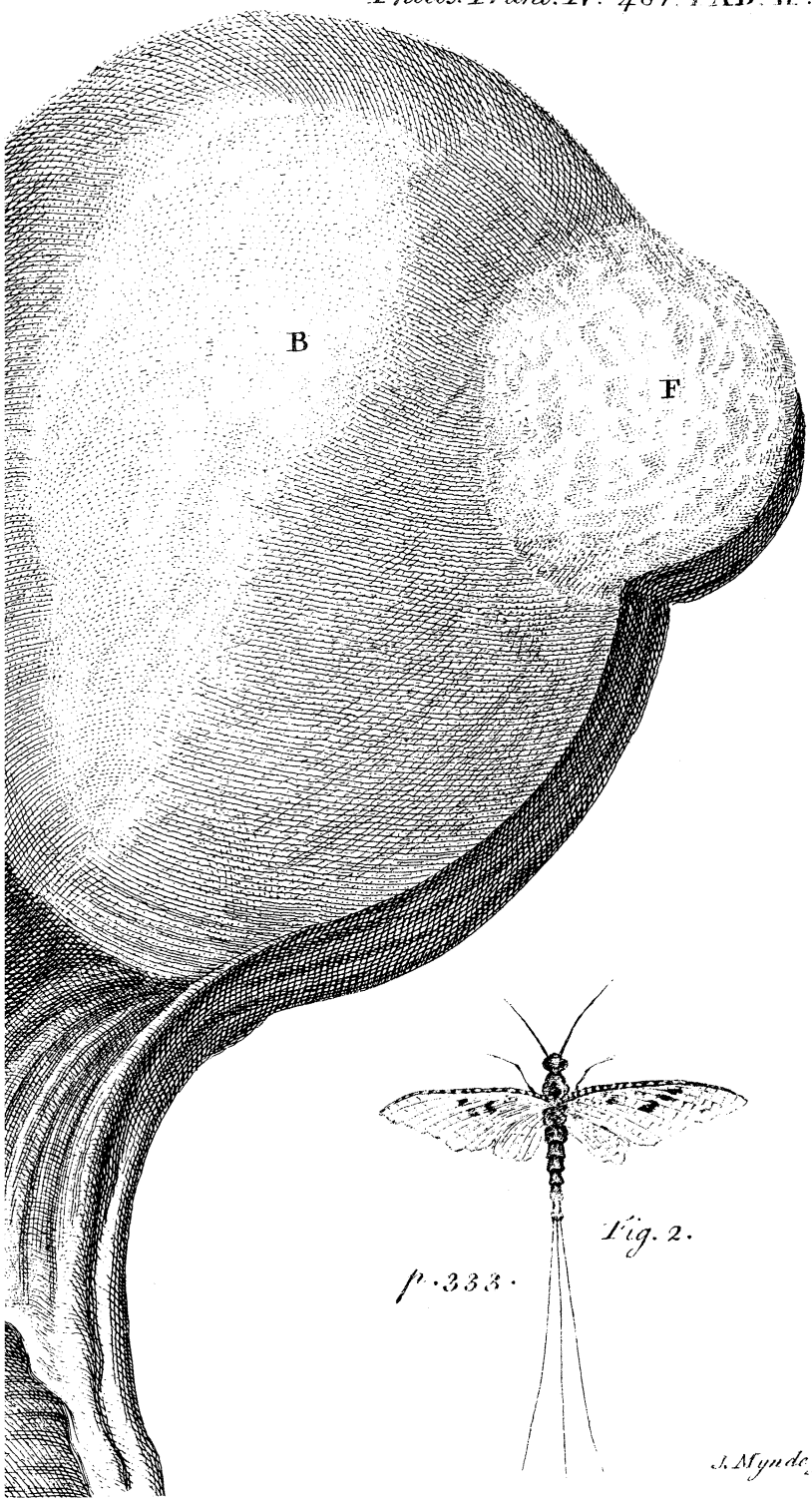


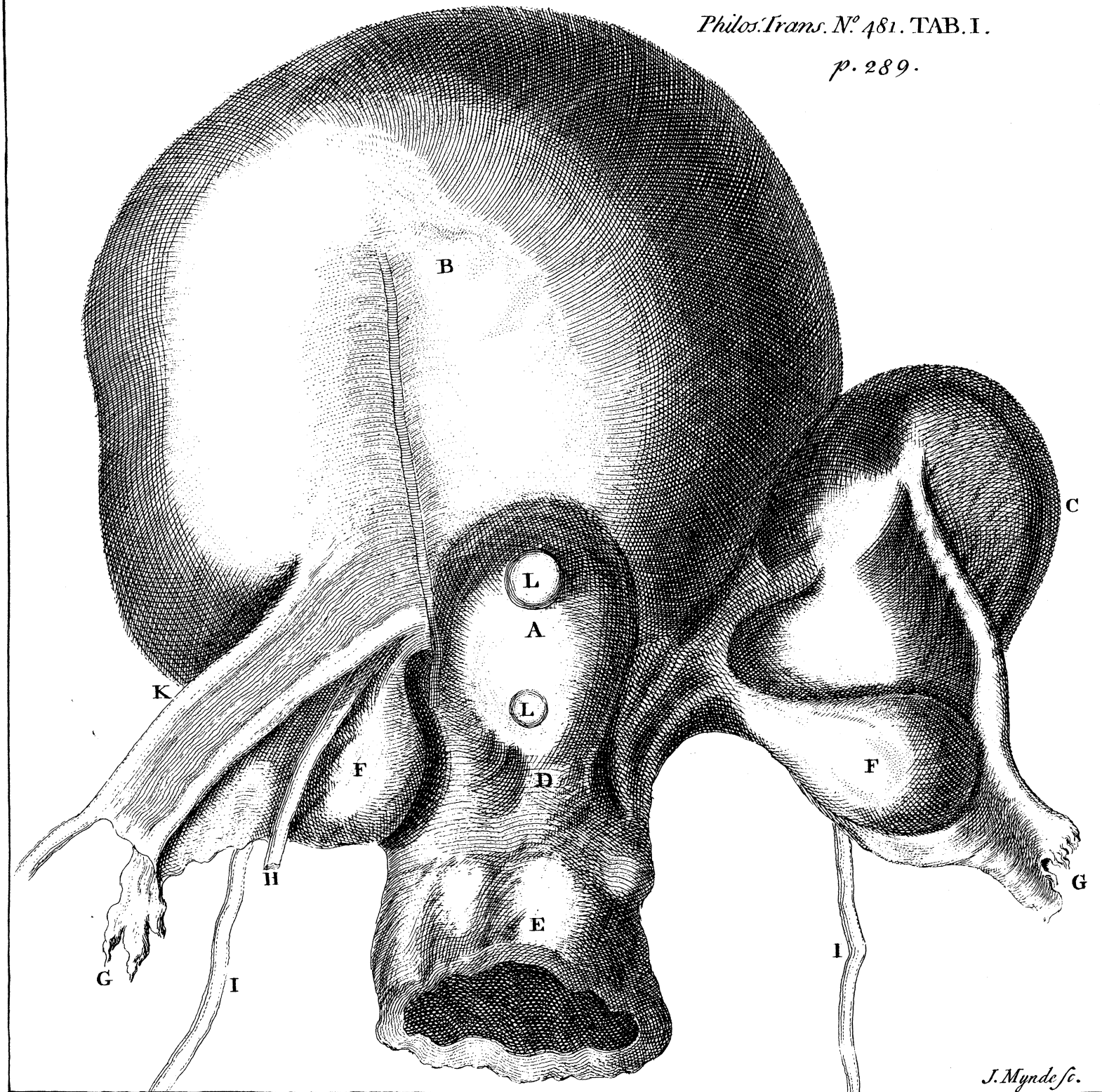
Fig. 2.

p. 333.

J. Mynde sc.

Philos. Trans. N.° 481. TAB. I.

p. 289.



J. Mynde sc.

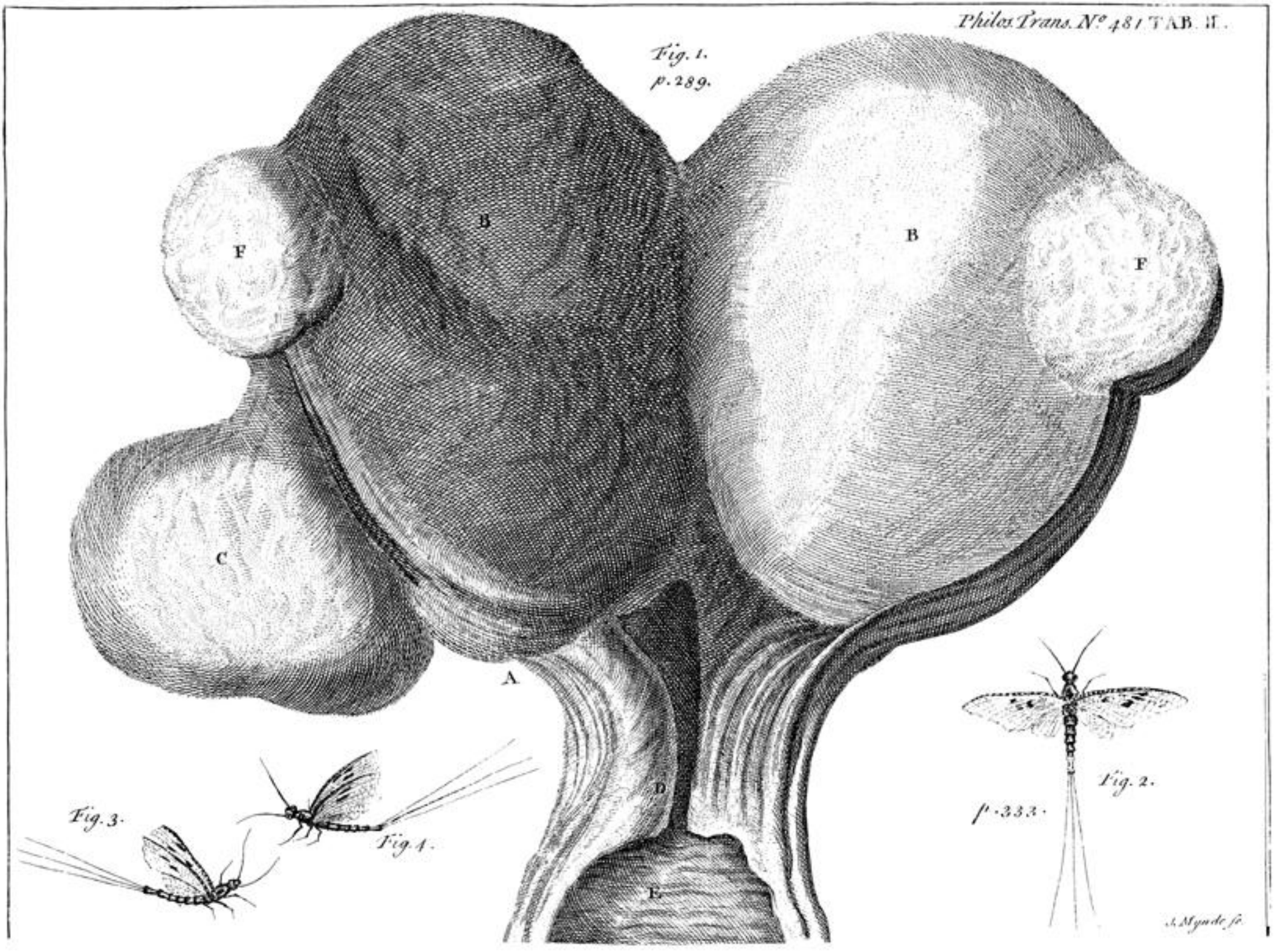


Fig. 1.
p. 289.
F
B
C
A
B
F
D
E
Fig. 3.
Fig. 4.
Fig. 2.
p. 333.
J. Mynde sc.